

ABSTRACT

A visibility-enhancing system includes an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the polarization of a light source relative to the polarization of a viewing filter, so as to provide adjustable control of visual contrast between interposing media and an object to be viewed. The relative angle between the light source polarization and the viewing filter polarization is selected to fall within the range of 60 to 89 or 91 to 120 degrees. The light source includes a light generation mechanism for generating polarized light, and an optional source polarization angle determination mechanism for adjusting the angle of polarization of the light source. The viewing filter includes a filter polarization angle adjustment mechanism for adjusting at least one of the polarization angle of maximum light attenuation and the polarization angle of minimum light attenuation. An observer adjusts at least one of the source polarization angle determination mechanism and the filter polarization angle adjustment mechanism so as to improve the visibility of the object to be viewed in the presence of interposing media while, at the same time, retaining at least a portion of glare reflections which potentially include valuable safety information.